

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05245 020346Z
ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05245

FOR NEA/IRN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IR
SUBJ: BILL BUTLER REQUEST

REF: STATE 137598

1. AS YOU KNOW, I CONSIDER BILL BUTLER OUR BEST SINGLE ASSET
IN ACCOMPLISHING CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS
EFFORT. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD DEPLORE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD
PREJUDICE HIS FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS WITH THE SHAH.

2. I BELIEVE BUTLER COULD GIVE A BALANCED ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECT
WHICH ICJ PROPOSALS HAVE HAD ON RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
JUDICIAL PROCESS WITHOUT HAVING TO DISCUSS HIS PERSONAL AUDIENCES
WITH THE SHAH. A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A REGIME AND A RESPECTED
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS A PROPER SUBJECT FOR A TELEVISION
REPORT. HOWEVER, DIVULGENCE OF DISCUSSIONS IN PRIVATE AUDIENCES
WITH THE SHAH ARE, IN MY JUDGEMENT, NOT FAIR GAME FOR PUBLIC
JOURNALISM.

3. I FEAR THAT NET RESULT OF SUCH DISCLOSURES MIGHT BE
FORECLOSURE OF FUTURE AUDIENCES FOR BUTLER. SINCE THESE
SESSIONS HAVE BEEN THE KEY TO HIS SUCCESS HERE, AND SINCE
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STEPS STILL TO BE TAKEN, I BELIEVE IT
IS IMPORTANT FOR BUTLER TO PRESERVE THAT ACCESS.

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4. WHILE ELIMINATION ON THE PERSONAL ELEMENT MAY TAKE
A LITTLE COLOR FROM THE SHOW, I FEEL IT WOULD BE SAFER TO
STICK TO THE INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE AND OMIT REFERENCE TO
THE PERSONAL INTERCHANGES AT THIS TIME.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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